Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for controlling a work implement on a work machine, comprising:

establishing a preset position for the work implement;

enabling an implement positioning system;

receiving an indication of a change in a travel direction of the work machine; and

moving the work implement to the preset position in response to the indication of the change in the travel direction when the implement positioning system is enabled.

2. The method of claim 1, further including establishing a preset elevated position and a preset lowered position.

3. The method of claim 2, further including:

moving the work implement to the preset elevated position when the travel direction of the work machine is changed from a forward direction to a reverse direction; and

moving the work implement to the preset lowered position when the travel direction of the work machine is changed from the reverse direction to the forward direction.

4. The method of claim 2, further including establishing a second preset elevated position and a second present lowered position.

5. The method of claim 1, further including monitoring at least one operating condition of the work machine, the monitored operating condition including at least one of a position of an implement positioning system

switch, a position of a parking brake, a position of an implement lockout switch, and an operation of an engine.

6. The method of claim 5, further including enabling the implement positioning system in response to an enabling manipulation of the implement positioning switch when the parking brake is in a released position, the implement lockout switch is in an off position, and the engine is operating.

7. The method of claim 6, further including disabling the implement positioning system in response to one of a disabling manipulation of the implement positioning switch, a movement of the parking brake to an engaged position, a movement of the implement lockout switch to an on position, a termination of the operation of the engine, a locking of the work implement in response to a system fault.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the work implement is moved to the preset position when an input mechanism adapted to control the movement of the work implement is in a centered position and a transmission is engaged.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the work implement is moved to the preset position when at least one of a ground speed is above a predetermined limit and a work machine acceleration is above a predetermined limit.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein a speed at which the work implement is moved to the preset position is based on the operating condition of the work machine.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the speed at which the work implement is moved to the preset position is based on an operating speed of an engine associated with the work machine.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the preset position is established by disposing a switch on the work machine.

13. A control system for a work implement on a work machine, comprising:

a sensor adapted to provide an indication of a change in a travel direction of the work machine;

an input device adapted to selectively enable an implement positioning system; and

a controller having a memory adapted to store a preset position for the work implement, the controller operable to move the work implement to the preset position in response to an enabling manipulation of the input device and the indication of the change in the travel direction of the work machine.

14. The control system of claim 13, wherein the memory of the controller is adapted to store a preset elevated position of the work implement and a preset lowered position of the work implement.

15. The control system of claim 14, wherein the controller moves the work implement to the preset elevated position when the travel direction of the work machine is changed from a forward direction to a reverse direction and wherein the controller moves the work implement to the preset lowered position when the travel direction of the work machine is changed from the reverse direction to the forward direction.

16. The control system of claim 13, further including a sensor adapted to provide an indication of a travel speed of the work machine and wherein the controller is adapted to vary a speed at which the work implement is moved to the preset position based on the travel speed of the work machine.

17. A work machine, comprising:

a traction device;

an engine operable to generate a power output;

a transmission adapted to transmit the power output of the engine to the traction device, the transmission further adapted to drive the traction device in one of a forward direction and a reverse direction;

a work implement;

an input device adapted to selectively enable an implement positioning system; and

a controller having a memory adapted to store a preset position for the work implement, the controller operable to move the work implement to the preset position in response to an enabling manipulation of the input device and an indication of a change in a travel direction of the traction device.

18. The work machine of claim 17, wherein the memory of the controller is adapted to store a preset elevated position of the work implement and a preset lowered position of the work implement.

19. The work machine of claim 18, wherein the controller moves the work implement to the preset elevated position when the travel direction of the traction device is changed from the forward direction to the reverse direction and wherein the controller moves the work implement to the preset lowered position when the direction of the traction device is changed from the reverse direction to the forward direction.

20. The work machine of claim 17, further including a sensor adapted to provide an indication of an operating speed of the engine and wherein the controller is adapted to vary a speed at which the work implement is moved to the preset position based on the operating speed of the engine.

21. The work machine of claim 17, further including:

an implement positioning switch moveable between an enabling position and a disabling position;

a parking brake moveable between an engaged position and a disengaged position; and

an implement lockout switch moveable between an on position and an off position.

22. The work machine of claim 21, wherein the controller moves the work implement to the preset position in response to a change in the direction of the traction device when the implement positioning switch is in the enabling position, the parking brake is in the disengaged position, the implement lockout switch is in the off position, and the engine is operating.

23. The work machine of claim 17, further including an input mechanism adapted to control movement of the work implement and wherein the controller moves the work implement to the preset position in response to a change in the direction of the traction device when the input mechanism adapted to control the movement of the work implement is in a centered position, a groundspeed of the work machine is above a predetermined limit, and the transmission is engaged.

24. A method for controlling a work implement on a work machine, comprising:

enabling an implement positioning system;

receiving an indication of a change in a travel direction of the work machine; and

moving the work implement in a predetermined direction for a predetermined period of time in response to the indication of the change in the travel direction of the work machine when the implement positioning system is enabled.

25. The method of claim 24, further including:

moving the work implement towards an elevated position for the predetermined period of time when the travel direction of the work machine is changed from a forward direction to a reverse direction; and

moving the work implement towards a lowered position for the predetermined period of time when the travel direction of the work machine is changed from the reverse direction to the forward direction.